IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Previously Presented)   A method of determining an appropriate character set for use in client-server communications, comprising at least one of:

(a)   selecting a character set for a client request made by client to a server using a network communication protocol, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the client request includes, as part of the network communication protocol, a request character set designation; and

if the client request does not include the request character set designation:

(i) retrieving locale information contained in the client request;

(ii) selecting a character set to assign to the request character set designation by associating the locale information with the request character set designation using mapping data located on the server; and

(iii) associating the request character set designation with a first code-set converter designation, wherein the first code-set converter designation is contained in a lookup table and is mapped in the lookup table with the character set assigned to the request character set designation, and wherein a first code-set converter corresponding to the first code-set converter designation maps characters of the request character set designation to corresponding characters of the first code-set converter designation while processing the request; and

(b)   selecting a response character set for a response from the server to the client, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the server response includes a response character set designation; and

if the server response does not include the response character set designation:

(i) retrieving locale information contained in the server response;

(ii) selecting a character set to assign to the response character set designation by associating the locale information contained in the server response with the response character set designation using the mapping data; and

(iii) associating the response character set designation with a second code-set converter designation, wherein the second code-set converter designation is contained in the lookup table and is mapped in the lookup table with the character set assigned to the response character set designation, and wherein a second code-set converter corresponding to the second code-set converter designation maps characters of the response character set designation to corresponding characters of the second code-set converter designation while processing the response.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network communications protocol used to make the client request and the server response comprises the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein associating comprises accessing a character set lookup table that maps the locale information to the request character set designation and response request character set designation, respectively.

4. (Cancelled)

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the locale information contains a cultural language preference identifier.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the character set designations contain an IANA character set parameter.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second code-set converter designations is indicative of user specific implementations of character sets.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the client request into Unicode characters.

11.   (Original)   The method of claim 10, further comprising converting the response from Unicode characters to the character set associated with the locale information.

12.   (Currently Amended)   A server computer system connected to at least one client computer, the server computer system comprising a memory containing a code-set program and at least one processor, wherein the processor, when executing the code-set program, is configured to:

   determine if a request header composed according to a network communications protocol received with a client request from the at least one client computer designates a character set; and

   if the request header does not designate the character set:

       (i) retrieve locale information from the client request;

       (ii) ~~associate the locale information with a character set~~ select a character set to assign to a request character set designation by associating the locale

information with the request character set designation using mapping data located on the server; and

(iii) associating the character set assigned to the request character set designation with a code-set converter designation, wherein the code-set converter designation is contained in a lookup table and is mapped in the lookup table with the character set, and wherein a code-set converter corresponding to the code-set converter designation maps characters of the character set to corresponding characters of the code-set converter designation while processing the request.

13.   (Cancelled)

14.   (Original)   The system of claim 12, wherein the locale information contains a language identifier.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 12, wherein the code-set converter is a JVM code-set converter.

16.   (Currently Amended)   A computer readable storage medium containing at least a code-set program which, when executed by a server computer, performs operations comprising at least one of:

(a)   selecting a character set for a client request made by client computer to a server computer using a network communication protocol, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the client request includes, as part of the network communication protocol, a request character set designation, and

if the client request does not include the request character set designation:

(i) retrieving locale information contained in the client request;

(ii) selecting a character set to assign to the request character set designation by associating the locale information with the request character set designation using mapping data located on the server; and

(iii) associating the request character set designation with a first code-set converter designation, wherein the first code-set converter designation is contained in a lookup table and is mapped in the lookup table with the character set assigned to the request character set designation, and wherein a first code-set converter corresponding to the first code-set converter designation maps characters of the request character set designation to corresponding characters of the first code-set converter designation while processing the request; and

(b)   selecting a response character set for a server response from the server to the client, the selecting comprising:

determining whether the server response includes a response character set designation; and

if the server response does not include the response character set designation:

(i) retrieving locale information contained in the server response;

(ii) associating the locale information contained in the server response with the response character set designation using the mapping data; and

(iii) associating the response character set designation with a second code-set converter designation, wherein the second code-set converter designation is contained in the lookup table and is mapped in the lookup table with the character set assigned to the response character set designation, and wherein a second code-set converter corresponding to the second code-set converter

designation maps characters of the response character set designation to corresponding characters of the second code-set converter designation while processing the response.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network communications protocol used to make the client request and the server response comprises the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

18. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein associating comprises accessing a character set lookup table that maps the locale information to the request character set designation and response request character set designation, respectively.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the locale information contains a cultural language preference identifier.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the character set designations contain an IANA character set parameter.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein at least one of the code-set converter designations is indicative of user specific implementations of character sets.

25.   (Currently Amended)   The computer readable <u>storage</u> medium of claim 24, wherein at least one of the first and second code-set converter designations is contained in a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) code-set converter.

26.   (Currently Amended)   The computer readable <u>storage</u> medium of claim 16, further comprising converting the client request into Unicode characters.

27.   (Currently Amended)   The computer readable <u>storage</u> medium of claim 26, further comprising converting the response from Unicode characters to the character set associated with the locale information.